

HOUSE RESOLUTION 313

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Union University Debate Team.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are pleased to recognize those outstanding collegians who bring honor to Tennessee and act as ambassadors for our State via debate competition; and

WHEREAS, the Union University Debate Team is one such group of outstanding young people that has excelled in the International Public Debate Association (IPDA) competition; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2018, the Union University Debate Team won its fifth consecutive season-long IPDA championship and its fifth championship tournament in the last eight years; and

WHEREAS, sixty-five students have represented the Union University Debate Team in competition in the last five years as they have won championships from Spokane, Washington, to Houston, Texas, to Boise, Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the Union University Debate Team has produced four individual season-long champions, including Christian Winter, 2013 Novice Division Champion; Allison Pulliam, 2015 Professional Division Champion; Graham Gardner, 2015 Novice Division Champion; and Clark Hubbard, 2017 Junior Varsity Division Champion; and

WHEREAS, the team is proud to include two season-long top speakers, Josiah McGee, 2016 Junior Varsity Division Top Speaker, and Clark Hubbard, 2016 Novice Division Top Speaker, as well as two championship tournament winners, Sam Strickland, 2016 Professional Division Champion, and Jacob Collins, 2017 Novice Division Champion; and

WHEREAS, the team has fielded six championship tournament top speakers, including David Knack, 2014 Varsity Division Champion; Jon Hall, 2016 Junior Varsity Division Champion;

Ryan Sinni, 2017 Professional Division Champion; Jacob Mathis, 2017 Team Division Champion; and Clark Hubbard, 2017 Junior Varsity Division Champion and 2018 Professional Division Champion; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Union University Debate Team have benefited from the astute skills and experience of their coach, Dr. Web Drake, who has prepared the team to compete at the highest level; and

WHEREAS, in addition to building student confidence through competition, the Union University Debate Team develops public speaking, critical thinking, and time management skills in its members and encourages discourse and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Union University Debate Team have demonstrated extraordinary intellect, preparation, and poise in the International Public Debate Association competition, bringing great pride to their families, their school, and the citizens of this great State; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body finds it appropriate to honor and congratulate these exemplary students on their many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend the members of the Union University Debate Team on their remarkable success in debate competition and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.